

## Message Text

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21/15

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1457

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 7

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN-AND NATO FONMIN AREILZA'S TRIP TO BRUSSELS,  
DUBLIN AND THE HAGUE

SUMMARY IN DEBRIEFING EMBOFFS, FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR  
GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS (AGUIRRE) CHARACTERIZED AREILZA'S  
LATEST VENTURE INTO THE HEARTLAND OF EUROPE (NATO HEADQUARTERS,  
BRUSSELS, THE HAGUE, DUBLIN) LAST WEEK AS GRAFITFYING. HE URGED  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLITICAL CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH THE US WOULD  
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SOON BEGIN TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC THOUGHTS ON OPPORTUNITES FOR

CLOSER SPANISH ASSOCIATION WITH NATO. END SUMMARY.

1. ECHOING THE GLOWING REPORTS IN THE SPANISH PRESS ON FONMIN AREILZA'S VISITS LAST WEEK TO BRUSSELS (INCLUDING TALKS WITH NATO AND EC OFFICIALS). DUBLIN AND THE HAGUE, AGUIRRE, WHO ACCOMPANIED THE MINISTER, CHARACTERIZED THE TRIP TO EMBOFFS IN A DEBRIEFING FEB 23 AS A COMPLETE SUCCESS. HE WAXED PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC IN DESCRIBING THE RECEPTION BY NATO OFFICIALS AND BY THE DUTCH VAN DER STOEL, SOMEWHAT CONTRARY TO SPANISH EXPECTATIONS, HAD BEEN MOST CORDIAL, EVEN PARTICIPATING IN AREILZA'S PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. HE CONTRASTED THE ABSENCE OF SOUR NOTES IN THE HAGUE AGAINST THE CARPING OF SOME FLEMISH CONTACTS IN BELGIUM ABOUT SPANISH INTERNAL POLITICS, NOTABLY THE BASQUE QUESTION.

2. AS AGUIRRE DESCRIBED IT, AREILZA APPARENTLY MADE THE NOW RATHER WELL KNOWN PITCH AT EACH STOP ABOUT THE GOALS OF THIS GOVT AND THE CONCRETE STEPS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE GREATER DEMOCRATIZATION MAKING CLEAR IN BRUSSELS THAT SPAIN IS NOT NOW SEEKING ANYTHING FROM NATO BUT "MIGHT" JOIN IF AND WHEN ASKED. HE HAD ALSO STRESSED THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF SHIFTING THE SPANISH MILITARY FOCUS NOW THAT SPANISH COLONIAL INTERESTS IN AFRICA HAD COME TO AN END. LUNS IN TURN HAD REPORTED THE ABSENCE OF ALLIED OBJECTION TO THE NEW TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. (THE DETAILS OF THE EXCHANGE HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPORTED ELSEWHERE.)

3. AGUIRRE WAS CLEARLY PLEASED BY THE RELATIVELY DETAILED EXCHANGES THE MINISTER AND HE HAD WITH NATO AND USNATO OFFICIALS ON THE POSSIBLE FOR CLOSER SPANISH TIES TO NATO. CLOSER LIAISON WITH THE SPANISH EMBASSY AT BRUSSELS (ABOUT WHICH AGUIRRE WAS NOT TOO SANGUINE BECAUSE OF DOUBTS ABOUT THE TALENTS OF THE AMBASSADOR NOW IN PLACE), SPANISH MILITARY LIAISON OFFICERS AT VARIOUS MILITARY HEADQUARTERS, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES (PARTICULARITY IN THE FRG), JOINT EXERCISES (SPAIN US PORTUGAL IN THE ATLANTIC, OTHER INCLUDING SPANISH-FRENCH, EXERCISES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN WERE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED BY HIM). AND CCMS ALL, HE SAID HAD COME UP FOR DISCUSSION. ANOTHER AREA OF INTEREST TO HIM WAS POSSIBLE SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN EUROGROUP ARMS PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS OF THE SPANISH INTERLOCUTORS IN BRUSSELS, AGUIRRE SINGLED OUT

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ONLY HILL-NORTON AS RATHER PESSIMISTIC THOUGH SYMPATHETIC ON PROSPECTS FOR EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSER SPANISH TIES TO NATO. AGUIRRE ADDED PARENTHETICALLY THAT THE PREVIOUS WEEK, AT HIS MEETING IN PORTUGAL WITH AREILZA, MELO ANTUNES HAD VOLUNTEERED PORTUGUESE SUPPORT FOR A GROWING SPANISH RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO QUITE IN CONTRAST, AGUIRRE SAID, WITH PORTUGUESE VIEWS UNDER PRE-REVOLUTIONARY GOVTS.

4. ALL OF THE ABOVE WAS BY WAY OF INTRODUCING WHAT AGUIRRE MOST HAD ON HIS MIND: A REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE IN KEEPING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FULLY IN THE PICTURE REGARDING U.S. THINKING ON POSSIBLE SPANISH INITIATIVES VIS-A-VIS NATO, HE UNDERSTANDABLY HOPES TO BE AT ONE END OF THIS CHANNEL AS HE SOON EXPECTS (IN A USEFUL SYMBOLIC MOVE) TO HAVE HIS DIRECTORATE GENERAL RENAMED THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC AFFAIRS. IN POINTING UP THE NEED " TO PREPARE OUR MILITARY", AGUIRRE SEEMED TO BE URGUING THE OBVIOUS NEED FOR POLITICAL CONTROL OF SUCH INITIATIVES ON THE SPANISH SIDE. HE SAID HE HAD MENTIONED THIS TO USNATO'S CHARGE STREATOR WHILE IN BRUSSELS. EMBOFFS NOTED OUR OBVIOUS WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL TO THE SPANISH AND UNDERTOOK TO PROVID A CONSIDERED RESPONSE.

5. COMMENT: AGUITTE'S CONCERNS PARRALLEL THOSE OF OTHERS IN THE MINISTRY WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE STRUCTURE TO BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE TREATY. THEY ARE CONCERNED AT THE DIFFICULTY THEY FACE IN KEEPING TRACK, MUCH LESS HAVING A VOICE IN, ACTIONS BY THEIR OWN MILITARY AS THIS PROCESS MOVES AHEAD. THEIR FEELINGS IN THIS ARE REINFORCED BY A WELL PLACED CONCERN THAT AT LEAST SOME IN THE SPANISH MILITARY LEADERSHIP MAY BE LESS ENTHUSIASTIC THAN THEY ABOUT PRESSING FORWARD WITH NATO.

6. IN THE TIME BETWEEN NOW AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE TREATY (ON WHICH WE WILL BE COMMENTING BY SEPTTEL) WE WILL WANT TO ASSURE THAT SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY IS KEPT FULLY IN THE PICTURE REGARDING ANY U.S. SUGGESTIONS FOR INITIATIVES ON THE SPAIN-NATO RELATIONSHIP. EVEN MORE, AS WE MOVE AHEAD, WE WILL WANT TO ASSURE THE CLOSEST COORDINATION AMONG ALL U.S. ELEMENTS INVOLVED.

7. SINCE THE SIGNALS TO BE GIVEN TO THE SPANISH WILL REQUIRE VERY CAREFUL ATTENTION WITH RESPECT TO SUBSTANCE, TIMING AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESENTATION, WE WOULD EXPECT TO BE KEPT FULLY INFORMED, AND TO SERVE AS THE CHANNEL TO ALL ELEMENTS OF THE SPANISH GOVT. STABLER

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